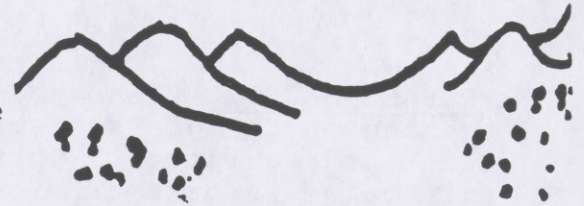


MINERAL KING DISTRICT ASSOCIATION



5357 N. Hazel Avenue
Fresno, CA 93711
(209) 432-4175



NEWSLETTER
May 1993

Dear Members:

Time is flying once again, the advent of another season in Mineral King is fast approaching. Happily this past winter has been what we have desperately needed for many years. As of the end of March there was an average of 111 inches of snow at sampling sites on Farewell Gap and about 73 inches in the Valley. For those of you planning an early trip up, be prepared for difficult conditions. Because of the deep snow, especially in shaded spots, the NPS road Maintenance Foreman, Leroy Malloy, has told Roger Blain that he will not be able to plow snow to provide complete road access until sometime in June. Of course anything could change and it will depend on how much warm weather we have in May and early June. The Silver City store will tentatively open on June 18th. Please call the NPS at Ash Mountain at (209) 565-3341 for the most recent road and area reports.

WINTER SECURITY Contrary to the December Newsletter, our security program did not get under way until February, Roger Blain had many difficulties in getting the necessary paperwork processed through NPS channels. Tom Parrack was the winter area ranger stationed at Lookout Point, and left Sequoia at the end of April for a position at Glacier National Park. The plan is for Linda Wallace to take up residence at Lookout the first week in May until Silver City and Mineral King are open. There has been some damage to area cabins from the heavy snows and the owners have been individually notified.

CABIN PERMIT FEES For those of you who are interested in how the NPS arrived at the current permit fee, the following is an excerpt of their form letter to me and others who questioned the unexpected increase.

<u>Year</u>	<u>CPI</u>	<u>RENTAL FEE</u>	<u>ADMINISTRATIVE FEE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1991	42%*	\$325	\$75	\$400
1992	3%	\$335	\$77	\$412
1993	3%	\$345	\$128	\$473

*Cumulative increase between 1981-1991

The letter goes on to explain that there was a re-evaluation and recalculation of the administrative time devoted to the "administering" of area permits and, "We believe that an \$473 is a very moderate annual charge for the privilege of having a private cabin in a national park. We hope you agree. If we can answer additional questions, please call me at 565-3103. Sincerely, (Signed) Peggy L. Williams, Concession Management Specialist"

PROPANE SAFETY Please be very carefull when opening up your cabins and turning on the gas systems. The tremendous snowpack may have damaged gas lines or regulators. On the first trip to your cabin, verify that the main valve is off. If for some reason the system was left on, your cabin could be full of propane just waiting for an ignition source. There have been many tragedies this past winter in the Sierra Nevada, please exercise extreme caution. I contacted SUBURBAN PROPANE in Visalia and asked them for any safety suggestions to include in the Spring newsletter. They will be sending out a standard form letter dealing with safety guidelines to the account holder of record. For those who might not see the mailing from SUBURBAN, the basic points are:

1. Visually inspect the outside lines, pigtail and regulator for damage.
2. Make sure that flues and appliance vents are undamaged and clear of trash and debris.
3. Verify that the system has been turned off all winter and there has not been a broken line pooling gas under the cabin.
4. Make sure there is no snow or ice on top of tank around main valve and pressure relief valve. If necessary, pour warm water around valves to thaw out. A soft nylon brush can be used to clean around valves, but do not use a sharp metal object.
5. Make sure the regulator is free from snow or ice and its vent relief is clear of dirt and debris. It will not operate in a frozen state, and could potentially let an excessive amount of gas pressure into the cabin. Manufacturers of gas pressure regulating equipment recommend that regulators be replaced approximately every fifteen years.
6. If you are not sure of the soundness of your propane system, do not turn it on and take a chance. Ask a friend or neighbor to help check the system or call SUBURBAN at 1-800-548-5400.

BEARS There were no major incidents involving bears last season. Let us all help to keep up the good work by storing food properly and wisely within our cabins and not leave wet garbage or table scraps out for the animals, it is an invitation to trouble.

MOUNTAIN LION Please remember the incidents with the cougar last year. The cat is still in the area, tracks have been seen by the rangers. It is possible that with the heavy winter, the natural prey of the lion has been scarcer, which could make it bolder in its search for food. Please be carefull with children and pets.

AUGUST MEETINGS Our next general meeting of the Association will be on August 7th at 11:00 AM behind the Barton cabin in West Mineral King and will conclude at 12:30 PM. The potluck luncheon will be at 1:00 PM between the Reynolds and Parks cabins. Please be thinking about alternate locations for next year's luncheon. The Parks and Reynolds families need a break from hosting the potluck.

Les

Les Reynolds, President
MINERAL KING DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: () _____

Cabin #: _____ East _____ West

Dues: Mineral King District Association \$10.00
Winter Security (only one per cabin) \$30.00

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Return to: Mineral King District Association
c/o Stuart Hendricks
2736 S. Watson
Visalia, CA 93277